

Advanced Life Support Policy/Procedure #13

Utilization of ALS Providers in Non-Transport Agencies

Origin: 03/94

Revision: 09/04

1. BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth of Virginia, the Loudoun County Operational Medical Director(s), the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Commission, the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services and the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., support the concept of ALS personnel in Non-Transport Agencies. Presently, there are four (4) Fire-Rescue agencies located within Loudoun County which do not have a Volunteer EMS Transport Agency either in the same building or physically located in their first due area. This policy has been established to address the provision of ALS care by these Non-Transport Agencies.

2. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

- A. To establish guidelines for the utilization of ALS certified personnel in Non-Transport Agencies where there is no existing Volunteer EMS Transport Agency physically located in their first due area.
- B. To ensure the timely utilization of ALS resources in those areas which do not have a Volunteer EMS Transport Agency physically located in their first due area.
- C. In addition, to ensure that ALS providers in Non-Transport Agencies are adequately supervised, and participate in regularly scheduled EMS training programs, in order to maintain the level of knowledge and skill proficiency necessary to perform their duties.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The individual Fire-Rescue Agencies involved in this process shall be responsible to the Loudoun County Operational Medical Director(s) for the coordination and provision of such service as outlined in this policy.

4. PROCEDURES

A written agreement (see Appendix) between the EMS Transport Agency and the Non-Transport Agency, outlining the provisions of this policy, shall be in effect before ALS personnel in Non-Transport Agencies are authorized to practice their skills in the field. Such agreement must be approved by the Medical Director(s) and shall address the following:

- A. Affiliation of the ALS provider with the first due Volunteer EMS Transport Agency
Non-transport agencies need to allow an affiliation by their ALS technician(s) with the Volunteer EMS Transport Agency in whose first due area the physical building of the Non-Transport Agency is located.
- B. Dual Responsibilities
Clear direction on the dual responsibilities of the ALS technician(s) to their parent Non-Transport Agency and their Volunteer EMS Transport Agency affiliation.
- C. Training
Flexibility by both the parent agency and the affiliated agency needs to be exercised to allow for required training in both agencies. At no time shall the requirements for the Non-Transport ALS provider exceed those required for the Volunteer EMS Transport Agency's ALS technician(s). In addition, Volunteer EMS Transport and Non-Transport Agency Chiefs shall make joint recommendations for ALS Challenge testing and ALS classes.
- D. Discipline
The Chief of the Non-Transport Agency and the Chief of the affiliated Volunteer EMS Transport Agency need to establish a strong line of communication to deal with disciplinary actions in their perspective fields of operation.
- E. Response procedures
In order to be an effective ALS technician, it is strongly encouraged that the initial ALS technician accompanies the patient through their delivery to the receiving medical facility. The written agreement shall address this concern and the procedures to be utilized in providing such continuity of patient care.
- F. Duty Hours
Both Non-Transport and Volunteer EMS Transport Agencies need to honor any established and assigned duty hours. It is essential that the ALS providers notify the Volunteer EMS Transport Agency Chief of their availability as may be required, and if they have been assigned duty time, that the Volunteer EMS Transport Agency honor this schedule and shall not arbitrarily remove these persons in favor of in-house providers.

F. Equipment and Supplies

The responsibility for equipment and supplies, including any medications carried in the Medication Kit should be delegated from the Chief of the Non-Transport Agency to the ALS technician(s) if the Chief is not an ALS provider.

G. Reporting

The ALS provider is required to participate in the reporting requirements of the Volunteer EMS Transport Agency and those required by the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., through its established Policies, Procedures, and Protocols (e.g., the Peer Review procedures, semi-annual skills update, etc.).

H. Medical Control

The Operational Medical Director(s), through the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., and its ALS Committee, establishes required Policies, Procedures, and Protocols by which ALS providers agree to adhere. In all medical procedures, the Operational Medical Director(s) has final authority. However, it is the practice of the Medical Director(s) to work in concert with the ALS provider's Chief. Under this policy, the Medical Director will work with both the Non-Transport Agency Chief and the Chief of the affiliated Volunteer EMS Transport Agency.

5. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

Annual elections of operational officers can result in changes in operational procedures. Because of this factor, the written agreement entered into must be an agency-to-agency agreement with the subsequent approval of the Medical Director(s). A copy of the signed agreement shall be maintained on behalf of the Medical Director(s) by the ALS Committee, and shall remain in effect as long as the Non-Transport Agency has ALS technician(s). In addition, either the Non-Transport Agency or Volunteer EMS Transport Agency has the right to request the termination of the agreement for cause through the Medical Director(s). The Medical Director(s) shall review such requests and take action as deemed appropriate.

6. REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

- A. The ALS Committee, on behalf of the Medical Director(s), and the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., will conduct a review of the agreement, as deemed necessary by the Medical Director(s), to ensure its effectiveness. Concurrently, those agencies that have entered into ALS Non-Transport Agreements will make an annual review of said agreement and make recommendations for policy changes to the Medical Director through the ALS Committee.
- B. The ALS Committee will ensure that both companies involved are adhering to all agreements, which have been entered into.

Donald A. Sabella, MD, OMD

Leo C. Kelly, PA, LCEMSAC